

FOUR IN LIVELY SCRAP AT HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Representative Hamer Chased by Three Secretaries.

HEAVY CANE AS DEFENSE

Capitol Bluecoat Comes to Rescue of Lawmaker.

Dispute Over Right of Way in Corridor Results in Belligerent Encounter—Hamer, in Effort to Escape, Falls and Is Overcome by One of Antagonists, Who Is Hauled Off Before Doing Any Damage.

A belligerent encounter, which may result in complaints of assault, occurred in the House Office Building at 8 o'clock last night, between three Congressional secretaries, and Representative Thomas R. Hamer, of Idaho.

There was a lively scuffle resulting from a dispute as to right-of-way courtesies in the corridor of the building, accompanied by threatening motions of a heavy cane, and a flow of extremely heated remarks. Turning hastily out of the door to flee from the secretaries, who he apparently considered had become his assailants, Mr. Hamer slipped on the sidewalk and sustained a bad fall.

OVERTAKEN IN STREET.

He was overtaken there by one of the secretaries, who proposed to push the battle to a conclusion, but was hauled off by one of the Capitol police and several persons who had gathered.

The three secretaries were E. S. Glavis, a brother of Louis R. Glavis, of Baltimore; Pinchot investigation frame, secretary to Representative Graham, of Pennsylvania; James Smiley, secretary to Representative Dickson, of Mississippi; and William Wallace, secretary to Representative Bowers, of Mississippi.

No blows were struck during the melee. It was evident, however, that things were growing exceedingly warlike when Representative Hamer turned toward the street door of the corridor after taking part in several moments of what is called in the House "acrimonious debate," in which the young secretaries were roundly scored and charged with ungentlemanly conduct, and in which the Congressman in turn came in for his share of threats and abuse.

The member brandished a heavy cane, which for a few moments was the logical point of the fracas. The combination of cane, the savage growl of a pair of gray eyes in which the fire of anger burned fiercely, and freely flowing exhortation served to keep the Congressman's three enemies at bay until he reached the door.

Slips to Pavement.

Deeming speed the proper commodity to apply to the time-walk contest at the stage, Mr. Hamer turned and ran. He emerged from the door even with the sidewalk, and beside the steps leading up to the front entrance of the building. In rounding these steps he slipped and fell. Glavis, from the secretarial contingent, was following close behind.

Hamer hastily scrambled to his feet in time to meet his assailant. A House building watchman overtook the pair and ordered them apart. Imprecations still flowing somewhat freely from both sides of the contest, the Congressman made his way to the House to attend the night session, and the three secretaries reentered the building.

Details of the near battle did not leak out until late in the evening. Representative Hamer remained at the House until the close of the session at 10:30 o'clock. Then he proceeded to the House office building, entered his office and immediately called the lieutenant of Capitol police in charge of the building, and the door watchman, who witnessed the conflict, into conference.

It was apparent that he was desirous of getting from them the names of his assailants in order to make an investigation, at least, and perhaps file complaints.

In response to questions concerning the encounter, Representative Hamer said he preferred to say nothing.

"The incident is not worth mentioning," said he, "and should be forgotten at once by everyone not personally interested in it. I do not care to discuss even its slightest details."

Shows No Injuries.

The Idaho Representative bore no signs of any injuries received either in the cane rush or in his fall. He would give no intimation as to whether he would call for the arrest of the three secretaries.

It was apparent that the young men who engaged in the conflict with Mr. Hamer had been together for some time. They were entering the building in a more or less jovial mood, when Representative Hamer encountered them as he was leaving. The corridor apparently was not wide enough for the meeting contingents. At any rate, a remark was passed, and in a trice the place was exceedingly confused. Loud language arose and threats echoed through the customarily quiet passage ways.

The waving of the Congressman's cane seemed to infuriate the three young men, and threats began to be accompanied by menacing advances. The unevenly matched forces seemed to be all that was preventing a clash and bloodshed. All the elements of belligerency were there. It was a distance of several paces to the door. The Congressman backed most of the way, keeping up his end of the worthy war and waving the cane at convenient intervals. Seeing his apparent intention

to drop the argument by escaping, the secretaries took after him as he made the sidewalk.

Representative Hamer is a tall and wiry individual. He has lived long in the West, and apparently is not altogether unused to fisty arguments. Clavis, Smiley, and Wallace dispersed soon after the occurrence. Smiley was seen in his apartment, near the Capitol, at midnight. He was disinclined to talk about the incident of the early evening, beyond remarking that it was only a "skylarking affair," and should not amount to anything.

LANDS IN A STORM.

Balloon, "Miss Sofia," Fails to Break Any Records.

Dover, Mo., Feb. 25.—The \$5,000 cubic foot balloon, Miss Sofia, with W. F. Ashman pilot, and J. M. O'Reilly, both of St. Louis, aboard, which left San Antonio, Tex., early last night, with the hope of lifting the Lahm cup, passed over Guthrie, Okla., northward-bound, at 8:40 o'clock this morning in a rain and wind storm, landed at Dover, fifty miles slightly northeast of Kansas City at 5:15 this afternoon.

AMERICAN OPERA FINALLY SCORES

Merited Praise and Success Accorded "Natoma."

MARKS EPOCH IN STAGE MUSIC

Production in English by Victor Herbert and J. E. Redding Worthy of Being Called as "Grand." Staged in Philadelphia Under Management of Andreas Dippel.

Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—At last "Natoma," an American opera sufficiently ambitious in conception to be classed as "grand," and successful enough in its effort to be praised honestly, has been produced and warmly welcomed. Not, perhaps, as an absolute realization of what was most hoped of the joint work of Victor Herbert (the composer), and Joseph E. Redding (the librettist), but as an evidence of a determined, earnest effort to put opera set to English words by American musicians in the same rank as foreign opera.

The production of "Natoma" at the Metropolitan Opera House, by the Philadelphia-Chicago Company, under the management of Andreas Dippel, marks a turning point in the young story of American stage music.

Until to-night, and in the present generation, one opera only by a composer of this country had competed with widespread attention.

A year ago, when the much-talked-of one-act lyric drama, by Prof. Converse, named "The Pipe of Desire," was presented at the New York Metropolitan, a south blow seemed to have been dealt at all the ardent hopes of those who had looked forward to the upbuilding of a school of native opera.

Brilliant Audience Attends.

But now a second effort has been made, and even though it may not in the long run prove triumphant, it has in a large measure shown the adom of persisting in the struggle for the development of opera by the writers and composers of this country.

A large and brilliant audience thronged the house, listened with sympathy to "Natoma," and applauded its performance by the distinguished artists in the cast.

The first act left the issue of the fight in doubt.

The second act aroused enthusiasm. The third and last confirmed the favorable impression made already.

The libretto now and then provoked grumbles in the English spoken by certain of the artists.

This was natural. Most of the singers are foreigners, who had not time or opportunity to conquer the difficulties of our vernacular. But, on the other hand, the vividness of the music, wherever the composer has given rein to his melodic inspiration or handled his orchestra freely, gave plain a short, though often Mr. Redding's lines seemed childish, they lent themselves quite easily to singing. Writers more poetic and imaginative than Mr. Redding will take up his task ere long where he has left it, and in a year or two we may evolve more operas, beside which "Natoma," with its many and real beauties, will seem as "Traviata" to "Aida" and "Otello."

Many Notables Present.

Four, indeed, five thousand music-lovers head the performance. In the boxes were Clarence Mackay, Philip Lydig, Otto H. Kahn, Thomas Clarke, Rudolph Schirmer, and Robert W. Iverson, all of New York; Max Pam and John C. Shaffer, of Chicago; Gustave Huberdeau, Father Leaning, and Mrs. Leaning; Marcellus Cox and Mrs. Cox, Langdon Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell, and Mrs. Alexander Brinton Cox, of Philadelphia.

Though the opera is a short time ago of American opera, that wonderful woman, Mary Garden, put her heart, great intelligence, her charms, all her art, into the interpretation of the Indian heroine. John McCormack, as a Californian counterpart of Lieut. Pinkerton; Hector Du Fraunce, as a good Californian padre; Mario Sammarco, as a Spanish villain; and Lillian Grenville, who cooperated bravely with Miss Garden.

The dances in the second act—wild, picturesque, and in one instance tragic—did more than even the admirable orchestra to assure a victory which at first seemed hard to win. Much of the honor earned to-night by the performance was unquestionably due to the great skill of Maestro Campanini, who is now almost as zealous an advocate of English opera as he has long been of Italian opera.

Costumes Historically Accurate.

The costumes worn by "Natoma" were all historically accurate.

The first two scenes—one showing the exterior of an old plaza, and mission church at Santa Barbara—were beautifully painted and most picturesque.

The cast was as follows: Natoma, Mary Garden; Barbara, Lillian Grenville; Lieut. Paul Merrill, John McCormack; Don Francisco, Gustave Huberdeau; Father Peralta, Hector Du Fraunce; Juan Bautista Alvarado, Mario Sammarco; Pico, Armand Crabbe; Kagama, Constantin Nicolay; Jose Castro, Avery Belvor; Chiquita, Mlle. Nandina; a voice, Minnie Kiser; general military director, Cleofonte Campanini, and stage director, Fernand Almaraz.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1911.—FORTY-TWO PAGES.

LARGEST MORNING CIRCULATION.

FIVE CENTS.

THE NEW RECRUIT.



SIX HANDBOOK MEN IN POLICE DRAGNET

Quiet Investigation by Detectives Followed by Coup. Some of the Suspects Get Away, but Their Capture Is Assured.

Six alleged handbook men—incidentally charged with making bets on horse races—were gathered in by the police of the First precinct yesterday afternoon, in what had been intended as a well-planned coup by which wholesale arrests were expected.

The men under arrest gave their names for entrance on the station house blotter as Ralph Walbridge, Ellis Weinberg, Bayard Wrenn, Albert Walker, William O. Jefferies, and Arthur McMahon.

WORKED FOR FIVE WEEKS.

The coup was engineered by Detectives Howe and Messer, of the First precinct, who had been working on the case for the last five weeks. About 2 o'clock Capt. Hollenberger, of the First precinct, Sergeant Lohman, Lee and Catts, and Privates Lile, Owen, Thompson, Connors, Bobo, Donnelly, P. Merz, Ward, and McDonald left the station house and set out to capture the suspects. The police broke up into small squads, and entered all the places where they supposed they could catch the men at about the same time.

Weinberg was arrested at his house, 910 E street; Walbridge was found in Fostender's saloon, in Ninth street, between D and E streets; Walker, at 918 F street; Jefferies, at the Park Hotel; McMahon, at the Fat Men's Club, and Wrenn in Ninth street, between L and M streets, as he was returning to his home.

Each of the men had several hundred dollars in his pockets. Several of those wanted by the police escaped the net, but the police say they will get them in a day or two.

The prisoners were taken to the First

precinct station and charged with running handbooks. Each man gave bond and was released.

Capt. Hollenberger said that the crusade against the bookmakers in this city was but the beginning of a campaign that will eventually drive them from the city. With the handbook men the police arrested James J. Leonard as a witness. When he was taken to the station house it was found that he had a revolver in his hip pocket. He was then charged with carrying concealed weapons, and later released on \$50 bail.

Roper Gets Into Trouble.

About half an hour after the men had been locked up, Amos A. Roper, a former member of the police force, came into the station to see Weinberg. It is claimed he became abusive, and was locked up charged with disorderly conduct. He was released on \$5 bail.

Last night "plain clothes" men scoured the city in the hope of getting others whom the police say are running handbooks, but up to a late hour they were not arrested. Detectives Howe and Messer, of the First precinct, have been working under orders from Maj. Sylvester, obtaining evidence against the men, and the arrests were the outcome of this investigation.

FORTIFIED CANAL FAVORED BY HOUSE

Decisive Vote When Item Comes Up in Sundry Bill.

The Panama Canal is to be fortified. By a vote of 123 to 81, on roll call, the House of Representatives last night emphatically registered its will on that question. It is expected that the Senate will concur without delay, and that with the signing by the President of the sundry civil bill, containing \$3,000,000 for beginning the defense works, the policy of the United States with relation to the canal and to the other nations of the world, will be settled for all time.

By a decisive majority, the amendment offered by Chairman Tawney, of the Appropriations Committee, proposing diplomatic negotiations looking to the neutralization of the waterway prior to the expenditure of money for fortifications was beaten, as were other amendments intended to render ineffective the canal appropriation paragraph or to delay the beginning of the defense work for an indefinite period.

Of all the thousands and one items in the great sundry civil bill carrying more than \$115,000,000, which passed the House of Representatives at 10:30 last night, the one item that attracted the most attention, excited the greatest interest, and received the most debate was this \$3,000,000 for canal fortifications.

Some of the best speeches that have been heard in the House of Representatives this session were made on the subject. Mr. Tawney, who is opposed to the fortification of the canal, as he is opposed to the expenditure of vast sums of money for war purposes of all kinds, made a hard fight to defeat the fortifica-

tions item. But he had no chance. The sentiment of the House, as disclosed by the vote, was overwhelmingly against him. The most dire predictions were made by the anti-fortificationists as to the ultimate cost of canal defense plans. The fortification board has declared officially that the defense will cost \$12,000,000. Mr. Tawney said last night they would cost \$50,000,000 at least, and \$25,000,000 a year besides to maintain.

Some of the best speeches declared these figures to be too high, but expressed the sentiment of the House, and of the American people, they declared, that even if these figures were correct, the canal should be fortified and protected against the world.

The sundry civil bill had been under consideration by the House for only two days, and its passage in this brief period establishes a new record. While once or twice in the last twenty-five years a sundry civil bill has been passed under suspension of the rules, this is the first time that the measure was ever put through in any such time under the regular rules of the House.

The chief feature of the consideration of the measure yesterday was the passage of items aggregating \$7,000,000 by unanimous consent. This heretofore has been a Senate prerogative and has never been indulged in to so great an extent by the lower branch.

The bill as passed carries among the many others an appropriation of \$50,000 for the reconstruction of the hall of the House of Representatives. Altogether there are more than a thousand items in the bill.

Will Call Extra Session.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 25.—Within less than twelve hours of adjournment of the thirtieth session of the West Virginia legislature, comes the announcement of Gov. William E. Glasscock that he will issue a call for an extra session of that body to be held some time in May to consider a primary bill, which failed to pass the senate at the regular session. Gov. Glasscock's announcement was not a surprise altogether, as he was known to entertain strong convictions that a primary law is due the people of the State.

Largest Morning Circulation.

RUTS IN STREETS DUE TO NEGLECT OF CITY RAILWAYS

Central Citizens Complain of Constant Menace.

DANGER TO VEHICLES

Pavements in Bad Condition in All Sections of District.

Franchise Laws Covering Matter Persistently Violated by Failure to Properly Repair Asphalt Between and Near Tracks—Capt. Mark Brooke Admits Protests Are Justified and Founded on Facts.

That in persistent violation of the franchise laws covering the matter, street railways of Washington continue to neglect to properly repair pavements over which their lines run, entailing danger and annoyance to pedestrians and ruining the appearance of the streets, was charged yesterday afternoon by members of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, who will carry their allegations to the Commissioners immediately.

Associations all over the city have appealed to the central body for satisfaction in the matter, claiming that not for years have the streets been allowed to remain in the condition noted at present.

MENACE TO VEHICLES.

Louis P. Shoemaker, president of the Brightwood Citizens' Association, said yesterday that the matter had been called to his attention by the existing conditions on Georgia avenue, where for blocks the car tracks are exposed, a constant menace to vehicles and foot passengers.

"I have known of several accidents in the last few weeks," Mr. Shoemaker said.

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Wounds Friend Shooting Target. Special to The Washington Herald.

Roads, Va., Feb. 25.—While shooting at a target this afternoon with a .22 caliber rifle, George H. W. Clarke, president of the Casper Distilling Company, accidentally shot H. W. Clarke, manager of the Roanoke branch of the Pintsch Gas Company. The ball struck Clarke in the left breast and lodged in the lungs. Clarke has a slim chance of recovery.

Singers to Visit White House.

Copenhagen, Feb. 25.—The Danish Students' Choral Society will shortly make a tour of the United States, and will sing at the White House. It is the finest body of singers in Northern Central Europe. Its membership includes the most prominent soloists of the opera house here.

Protect Persons from Suicides.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Owners of sixteen office buildings in the loop district having rotundas more than three stories in height were to-day ordered to stretch screens across the second floor openings to protect persons on the main floor from suicides who might leap on them. Three days are given for them to begin work.

PRESIDENT MAKES A VIGOROUS PLEA FOR THE DISTRICT

Strikes Popular Keynote at Testimonial Dinner to Representative Gardner.

TOUCHES UPON A NUMBER OF TOPICS

Would Like to See a Resident of Capital Ride on Public Ground From Potomac Park Through Rock Creek and Soldiers' Home to the Capitol.

If citizens of the District of Columbia have had cause to complain in the past because of the subordination of District affairs to other matters of state by Congress, they could have had no just complaint along like lines last night, at the testimonial dinner of Washington official and private circles to Representative Washington Gardner, of Michigan, the retiring chairman of the District sub-committee on appropriations.

President Taft, members of the municipal administration, past and future dictators of the District's treatment by Congress, laid aside the broadest questions of national welfare, and paid almost exclusive attention to the "hopes and fears of future years" of citizens of the District.

ALL PHASES COVERED.

No possible project or hope of the future, or phase of the administration of the District in the past, was left untouched, and no speaker displayed naught but the most feeling interest in, and studious knowledge of, the questions which the citizens of the District are daily turning over in their minds. If solutions were not reached or promises made in the questions, at least the speakers offered an open, unbiased mind for the consideration of all District matters.

Never since the memorable dinner to him by the citizens of the District two years ago, has President Taft taken occasion to avow himself so exclusively on District matters, as he did last night. And the most enthusiastic—if conscientious—advocate for the District could not have shown a much greater knowledge of the District in the main questions affecting the welfare of the Nation's Capital. The title of "Mayor of Washington," which has been applied to President Taft before, was justly earned by his evident affection for his present place of residence.

Indorsed by President Taft, the advocacy of the eloquent John W. Yerkes for a single committee of the House to care for all District matters, instead of the present system of division between appropriation questions and other District affairs, was the most striking reform proposed. Perhaps the keynote most often struck by the speakers—President Taft, Speaker Cannon, Mr. Yerkes, and the guest of honor, Mr. Gardner—was the idea of the wisdom of suffrage for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Taft's Address.

President Taft said, in part:

"I come here to join with you in testifying to the gratitude that we all ought to feel to a member of Congress who has given so much effective attention to the benefit of the District. There is a great deal to attend to in Congress. There is a good deal to attend to in each District. The Commission to look into the question of the memorial bridge, I have always had a theory that the memorial bridge and the Lincoln memorial might well be united or associated together on the axis of the Mall, looking over to Arlington on one side, to Washington's Monument and to the Capitol on the other, and when that is done, if that proves to be the plan you can be certain that the Mall is established for all time."

"I do not know why it is that Michigan seems to produce good men for the District of Columbia. You remember Senator McClellan, and know how much he contributed to the city of Washington. Every time I take a meal and every time I go to bed now, I think of Senator McClellan, for it was to him that was due the appropriation that enabled McKim to make over the White House and make it the most suitable and the most dignified residence for the Chief Executive in the world."

Friends of the District.

"Now, there is no better friend of the District than Brother Burdison. I should be glad at all times as I do now, to testify to his disinterested zeal in behalf of the District. He came to see me when I had on me the burden of selecting two District Commissioners, and he helped me in every way to secure the best men I could."

In going all over this city one is struck by the idea, and I believe Congress realizes it, that the money cannot all be contributed at once, and probably it is better that it should not be, and that the plans should be worked out gradually, and that while we have a plan and while we work toward it, we may be waiting acquire experience as to what we need and more knowledge, and all join together in the team work that is necessary to make this the most beautiful city in the world."

No Concession to Americans.

Rome, Feb. 25.—The Tribune denies that any concession has been granted to Americans for the operation of the sulphur mines in Tripoli. It says the presence of J. Ogden Armour's yacht at Cyrenaica is not connected with the exploitation of the mines, but is due to Mr. Armour's interest in archeology and his recent visit to the excavations at Cyrenaica.

John F. Elmore Dead.

New York, Feb. 25.—John F. Elmore, former United States Minister to Peru, died suddenly at the Astor House to-day, aged seventy.

Palm Beach, Miami, and Cuba.

Via Atlantic Coast Line, leaves 7:30 p. m. Three other ways to the winter resort, by way and service. 1119 New York ave. n. w.